

Commissioner's Update

May 27, 2008

Dear Connecticut Educator:

I have one item for you in this update.

Connecticut Schools Selected for NAEP 2009 Administration

Three hundred fifty Connecticut schools have been selected to participate in NAEP 2009 at Grades 4, 8 and 12. Principals of the selected schools were notified during the week of May 12. Assessment dates will be communicated to each principal in June so that NAEP may be placed on the 2008-09 school calendar. All testing will take place from January 26 through March 6, 2009.

Of the 350 selected schools, 99 are high schools. The number of Connecticut high schools selected for 2009 is much larger than in previous administrations because, for the first time, the NAEP Grade 12 assessment will yield state-level results in reading and mathematics. Ten other states join Connecticut in this first-ever, state-level administration of Grade 12 NAEP. Additional information about this pilot program can be found in the news release available on the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE's) Web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/pressroom/hsnationalrdgmathassess.pdf>.

NAEP participation is a critical component of our statewide assessment system. It provides our State with contextual information with which to interpret Connecticut Mastery Test and Connecticut Academic Performance Test results. In fact, Section 10-239i of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that districts selected for NAEP participate in the assessments. Since every student tested represents hundreds of other students, participation by every district selected is necessary to ensure that the NAEP results accurately represent the achievement of students from Connecticut and the nation.

What will be assessed on NAEP 2009?

	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 12
<i>Operational Testing*</i> (Results reported publicly)	Reading, Math, Science	Reading, Math, Science	Reading, Math, Science
<i>Pilot Testing*</i> (Primarily used to develop future assessments)	Science (includes interactive computer tasks and hands-on tasks), Reading, Math, U.S. History, Civics, Geography		U.S. History, Civics, Geography
<i>Special Studies</i>	National Indian Education Study		NIES, SES

	(NIES), Socioeconomic (SES) Indicator Study	Study High School Transcript Study
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**Every student in the NAEP sample is tested in only one subject.*

Who will be assessed in Connecticut?

In the 350 public schools selected for NAEP 2009 in our state, samples of students in Grades 4, 8 and 12 will be assessed. While there are exceptions, the table below provides estimated numbers of students in each school that will be sampled for NAEP.

	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 12
<i>Operational Testing</i>	90	90	85
<i>Pilot Testing</i>	54	52	52

Who administers NAEP?

NAEP field staff representatives administer the assessment in Connecticut schools. School staff members are not responsible for administering NAEP.

How much time is required to administer NAEP?

For a standard administration of the operational assessment, schools should allow up to 90 minutes. Some pilot assessments in science could take up to 120 minutes.

How are results reported?

Operational assessments and selected special studies will be reported publicly on varying timelines. The operational assessments of mathematics, reading and science will yield state-level results for Grades 4 and 8. This means that when the results are released, the public will be able to examine the performance of Connecticut students over time and in comparison to other states.

While the Grade 12 assessments of mathematics and reading in 2009 will be reported at the state level, the high school science assessment will be reported at the national level only.

NAEP is not designed to report district, school or student-level results. All NAEP 2009 results will be included in the *Nation's Report Card* issued by the National Center for Education Statistics.

Where can I find more information about NAEP?

The official NAEP Web site:

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

NAEP on the CSDE Web site:

<http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/assessment/national/naep.htm>

The Connecticut NAEP state coordinator, Renee Savoie, can be reached via e-mail at renee.savoie@ct.gov or by calling 860-713-6858.

Sincerely,

Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education